REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated September 30, 2008 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Claims 1-33 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 and 26-33 are rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0201448 by Wang (hereinafter "Wang") and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0018839 by Andric et al. (hereinafter "Andric").

The Applicant's independent claim 1 concerns transmitting unique identification (ID) data for the wireless node from the wireless node, receiving the unique identification (ID) data at a controller and in response, and sending association ID data (comprising a master ID, a network ID, and a slave ID) to the wireless node using the unique ID to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data.

To account for these aspects of claim 1, the Office Action principally relies on Wang. Specifically, the Office Action states:

> **Consider claim 1,** (Previously Presented) Wang discloses a method for
> wireless association: between a controller and a wireless node, the method
> comprising: transmitting association request data from the wireless node, the
> association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the
> wireless node **(sections [33]-[34])**; (Pages 3-4; emphasis original).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees that Wang has such correspondence with claim 1. The above quotation appears to draw correspondence between the wireless node transmitting association request data (including unique identification data) to a controller, as claimed, to the procedure of Wang described in paragraphs [0033-0034]. However, these procedures are different in that the claimed wireless node sends the controller unique identification data, while the system components of Wang do not send such unique identification data when contacting the Local Control Master (LCM). Instead, the components (e.g., remote control R) are issued an ID code by the LCM, as explained below.

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As background for understanding the claims and Wang, the Applicant reprints Fig. 1 from each of these disclosures (the Applicant's Fig. 1 on the left and Wang's Fig. 1 on the right):
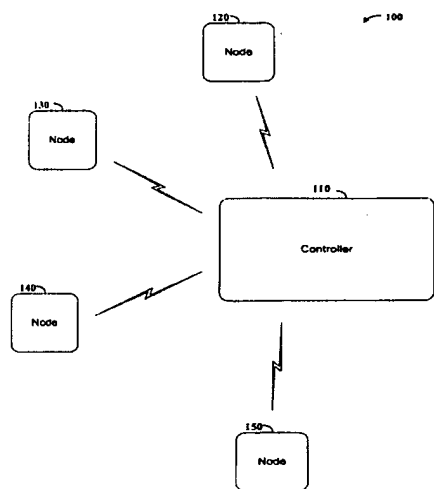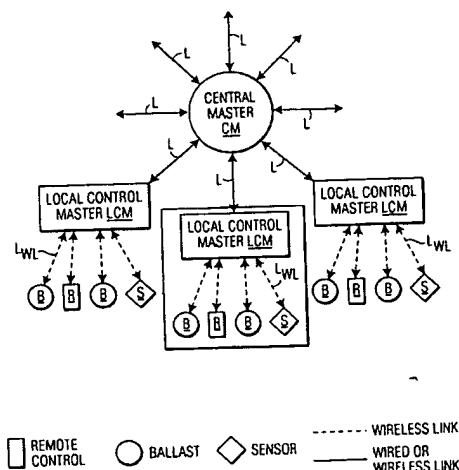

FIG. 1

FIG. 1

Wang discloses a lighting system whereby "The local control masters LCM communicate via respective wireless links L_{WL} to lighting-system components including lighting units B, sensors S and remote controls R." ([0021], see Fig. 1). These components can be respectively bound to a LCM by an initialization process. In this regard, Wang states:

> The term "initialization" refers to a procedure of configuring the network by registering each component in the network. This procedure includes assigning a unique network ID code to the component when it joins the network. ([0031]).

When a user presses a button on one of the components, such as a remote control, the component "check[s] whether an ID code has already been allocated to it by the LCM at 412 and, if not, transmit an enumeration request at 414 in which this component identifies itself as a remote control." ([0033]). Upon receipt of the request, "the LCM verifies that it is from a remote control at 314, and allocates and transmits a unique ID code for the requesting remote at 316." ([0034]). Then, "the LCM transmits a verify command to the newly-allocated ID code for the respective remote to give a signal to the user that the ID code has been transmitted." ([0035]).

The process of enumeration/initialization is then completed by Wang where:

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If the remote that sent the enumeration request at 414 has received the newly-allocated ID code, it will store the ID code at 416. Then, at 420, it will await reception from the LCM of the verify command and, upon receipt, will at 422 signal the user (e.g. via flashing light, sound, vibration) to indicate that the enumeration of the remote has been successful. The user will then confirm receipt of the ID code at 424 by effecting transmission to the LCM of an enumeration-confirmed signal, e.g. by pressing a designated button on the remote. ([0035]).

The portion of Wang cited by the Office Action to support the rejection does not correspond to the Applicant's claim 1. For example, claim 1 concerns a wireless node transmitting unique identification (ID) data to a controller as part of an association request, while in Wang the remote component contacts the Local Control Master (LCM) and then the LCM issues a unique ID to the remote component. The remote components of Wang do not send unique identification (ID) data as part of an association request to the Local Control Master (LCM). Therefore, claim 1 and Wang differ in at least how nodes/remote components are identified in an association request - in claim 1 the nodes uniquely identify themselves to a controller in an association request using unique identification (ID) data while in Wang the remote components contact the LCM as part of a request and then receive data from a control master to uniquely identify themselves.

This contrasting aspect is further highlighted by claim 1 where the controller responds to the association request data (with the unique ID data) by sending association ID data assigned to the wireless node using the unique ID to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data.

In Wang, the LCM responds to the enumeration request from a remote component by sending the remote component an ID code allocated to it by the LCM. ([0033-0034]). Because the remote component did not transmit a unique ID to the LCM, the LCM had to allocate an ID code for the remote component. Furthermore, since the remote component did not transmit a unique ID to the LCM, the LCM does not send the allocated ID code to the remote unit using the unique ID to identify the remote controller as the intended recipient because before transmission the remote controller was unaware of the ID code (compare to claim 1 reciting "sending the

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association ID data assigned to the wireless node by the controller using the unique ID with the association ID data to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data").

Therefore, Wang does not teach transmitting unique identification (ID) data for a wireless node from the wireless node, receiving the unique identification (ID) data at a controller and in response, sending association ID data to the wireless node using the unique ID to identify the wireless node as the intended recipient of the association ID data, as claimed.

Wang states that the remote control R does "identify itself as a remote control" ([0033]) and that the Local Control Master (LCM) verifies that the enumeration request comes "from a remote control" ([0034]), however, this does not constitute unique identification. For example, Wang states that the remote control R identifies itself as a remote control, and the LCM verifies that it is a remote control R, and not a unique component relative to other remote controls. As shown in Fig. 1, Wang contemplates that many remote controls will be used, so designation of a component as a remote control does not identify the component as unique. A remote control is not identified as unique until the Local Control Master (LCM) issues it an ID code and the ID code issuance is then verified.

Wang handles the identification of components in this manner (assignment of ID codes by the LCM) because Wang negatively views pre-assigned ID information for components. Specifically, Wang teaches away from the idea of "each lighting unit having a pre-assigned ID number" because such a system "limits the types of new and replacement lighting units that can be incorporated into the system" and "if the remote is lost or becomes inoperable the entire system must be reconfigured with a replacement remote" ([0012]). The United States Supreme Court affirmed in the *KSR Intern Co. v. Teleflex* decision addressing obviousness under §103(a) that a *prima facie* case of obviousness may be rebutted by showing that the art, in any material respect, teaches away from the claimed invention (127 S.Ct. 1727, 1740 (U.S. 2007) citing *United States v. Adams*, 383 U.S. 39, 40 (1966)); see also MPEP § 2144.05(III) discussing *In re Geisler*, 116 F.3d 1465, 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1997)).

Therefore, the rejection is based on the erroneous view that "Wang discloses . . . transmitting association request data from the wireless node, the association request data including unique identification (ID) data for the wireless node (sections [33]-[34])", where Wang

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instead specifically avoids such a step. (Quoting pages 3-4 of the Office Action). Consequently, the rejection of this claim is incorrect, unsupported, and must be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1 is further based on the view that Wang teaches:

receiving the association request data at the controller **(section [33])** and in response, assigning association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node **(sections [34]-[35])** an ID corresponding to a network served by the controller and of which the wireless node is operating, and a slave ID exclusively assigned to the wireless node relative to any other wireless nodes in the network **(sections [34]-[36])**; (Office Action, Page 4, emphasis original).

While the Office Action later acknowledges that Wang does not teach network identification data (and therefore turns to Andric), the Applicant respectfully submits that Wang does not teach a master ID that exclusively identifies the controller relative to any other controller either.

As discussed above, the LCM of Wang only issues one code to the remote control R - the ID code. Wang contemplates that several remotes and LCM's could be operating simultaneously (e.g., see Fig. 1 and [0035]), however Wang does not resolve this issue by issuing a master ID, separate from the ID code, to exclusively identifying the LCM relative to any other LCM within communication range of the remote component.

Instead of using such a master ID, Wang relies on the user to view light flashes on the devices being associated to ensure that only the intended devices are being wirelessly associated. For example, Wang provides that:

If more than one LAN exists, the LCM also gives a signal, e.g. by flashing light from the lighting unit in which the LCM is located, so the user knows which LCM is being enumerated to. ([0035]).

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Wang's provision of this flashing-light step to distinguish between the LAN's of LCM's relative to another clearly underscores the Applicant's contention that Wang fails to provide a master ID based system whereby a master ID identifies a controller relative to any other controller (or LCM relative to other LCM's).

Therefore, the rejection is based on the erroneous view that Wang discloses "assigning association ID data including a master ID exclusively identifying the controller relative to any other controller within communication range of the wireless node (sections [34]-[35])" (Quoting page 4 of the Office Action). For this further reason, the rejection of claim 1 is incorrect, unsupported, and must be withdrawn.

Finally, the Applicant notes that in claim 1, a node sends a controller unique identification data, and the controller responds by sending the node a master ID, a network ID, and a slave ID, each ID having a different specified function. In accounting for these aspects of claim 1, the Office Action points to a portion of Wang which only provides for a controller responding to a request by sending a remote component an ID code (see [0014-0016] and [0033-0035]). The rejection states that Wang is only missing the network identification data, so it refers to paragraphs [0189-0190] of Andric to account for the network ID. (Page 4 of the Office Action).

Even if these references teach all that the rejection purports, the references only provide an ID code and a network ID, which amounts to two different ID's. Claim 1 concerns the transferring of 4 different ID's (unique ID, master ID, network ID, and slave ID).

For each of the reasons discussed above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection fails to account for all claim elements, and therefore cannot render this claim *prima fascia* obvious.

The Applicant also notes that independent claims 17, 21, 29, and 30 include variations of the elements discussed above. These elements are likewise not accounted for by the rejection, for each of the reasons discussed above. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 17, 23, 29, and 30.

Each of claims 2-16, 18-22, 24, 26-28, and 31-33 depend from one of independent claims 1, 17, 23, 29, and 30, respectively. While the Applicant does not acquiesce to the particular rejections to these dependent claims, it is believed that these rejections are now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent claims 1, 17, 23, 29, and 30. These dependent

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claims include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the cited references. Moreover, if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. (*In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Therefore, dependent claims 2-16, 18-22, 24, 26-28, and 31-33 are not made obvious by Wang, even in combination with Andric.

Claim 25 is rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Andric and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,883 to Simmons et al. (hereinafter "Simmons").

Claim 25 depends from independent claim 23. While the Applicant does not acquiesce to the particular rejection to this dependent claim, it is believed that the rejection is now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent claim 23. Consistent with *In re Fine*, dependent claim 23 is not made obvious by Wang, even in combination with Andric and Simmons.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (HONY.015PA) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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